

Sports Corner

By Gary Kidwell



Korner appearing each week in the LEWIS COUNTY HERALD, due to the declining health of Coach Kidwell we will no longer be able to continue writing the column each week.

The Korner started back on July 10, 1975. Gary had been just writing sports articles frequently when there was sports news he felt the Herald readers would like to know. One week, a former 1961 classmate, Ina Carol Wilson, who worked at the LC Herald office, told him he just needed to start writing an article every week about local sports news going on in Lewis County and in the Lewis County schools. Thus the beginning of Kidwell's Korner. There were very few weeks that there was not a column in the paper. He would collect sports news all week, then write his column on Thursday night. If we were out of town for state tourneys, vacation, or for any reason, he would write the column and find somewhere to fax it to the Herald office. Over a fifty year period, that was hun-

Joe B. Hall, Tubby Smith, and numerous others. He was happiest when he was attending a sporting event and loved the Cats, Reds, and Bengals. Also he enjoyed watching his Morehead State "Eagles," especially when Donnie Tyndall was head coach and when his son, Merle, was an MSU grad assistant for the Eagles basketball team.

Coach always covered every KHSAA Boys' State Basketball Tourney from 1960 until 2024, and also several Girls' State Basketball Tournaments. He always would do a recap of the tourney and of all the game results in the Korner. As a "KHSAA Board of Control" member, he was honored to present the West Carter Lady Comets and Coach Hop Brown their first place trophy, when they won the Girls' State Tourney in 2000. He was so proud of Coach Brown and the 16th Region winning the state tourney.

Coach was proud of the fact that he revived the football program in Lewis

County in the Korner announcing their birth. He then followed them throughout their careers in sports. Athletes were sometimes remembered on their birthdays, marriages, and anniversaries.

Coach loved writing in the column when one of our high school athletes received a scholarship to play a sport in college and then followed them throughout their college playing years. Many times he would be seen at one of their college games watching them play. Nothing made him more proud.

He loved covering the EKC district and regional tourneys, especially when Lewis County was playing. After his coaching days were over he usually was broadcasting the games on the radio with his color commentators Joe Harrison and then Mike Edington. In later years broadcasting the games and his Saturday Morning Sports Show became a very important part of his life.

Coach Kidwell's family would like to thank Dennis



The Kidwell Family.

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Gary and son Merle Kidwell.

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Mike Edington and Gary Kidwell.

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dreds of columns, his main objective was to recognize future athletes (births), current Lewis County school athletes, former athletes, game wrap-ups, and anything referring to sports. Coach always tried to be very fair in recognizing athletes. He did not care if they were from Vanceburg, Tollesboro, Garrison, Laurel, Firebrick, or just recognizing the best athletes, but anyone who did something well in sports that week. He would gather his info from coaches, players, parents, sports pages from newspaper's game reports, e-mail, and anywhere in between.

Frequently he would attend UK, Reds', and Bengals' games and give updates on the team's records, schedules, and outstanding players. He interviewed many famous athletes and coaches, such as, Pete Rose, Johnny Bench, Sparky Anderson, Rick Pitino, John Calipari,

County schools in the fall of 1967 and also the Little League baseball program in the summer of 1967. His goal was to always try to improve the sports programs in Lewis County, regardless of the sport.

Many articles were written about the teams he, himself coached (football, basketball, baseball) and showcased the outstanding players in each game. He loved promoting our Lewis County Lions players. He has always held Lewis County players dear to his heart. Nothing he enjoyed more than seeing his former players, later in life and reminiscing about their playing days and what they were doing in their life after graduating. Many times after catching up with a former player, they would see their names and an update on their life in the Korner the next week.

Many future athletes were introduced to Lewis

and Tammy Brown for allowing him to write the Korner every week, and also thanks to Trish Bloomfield and Mandy Sparks for their help in proofing the Korner for the paper each week.

Thanks to all the people who have read and supported the Korner throughout the years and kept in touch with Coach through the years. Your love and support will always be remembered.

In closing for the last time from Kidwell's Korner, "This is the Old Righthander rounding third and heading for home" and "Have a good week in sports."

'Pre-K for All' initiative

By JY Henderson

On June 6, Lt. Gov. Jacqueline Coleman and Rocky Adkins, senior advisor to Gov. Andy Beshear, joined local officials, educators, business leaders and parents in Eastern Kentucky to rally support for the "Pre-K for All" initiative, which aims to advance the commonwealth's public education system and job growth.

"Kentucky will never reach its potential if our children's zip code determines their place in the world by the first day of kindergarten," Lt. Gov. Coleman said. "The time for pre-K is now."

"It is past time we invested in our kids, set them up for success, and ensured they were ready on day one of kindergarten," said Adkins. "This is a no-brainer issue. This will get more Kentuckians in the workforce, help our families with childcare needs, cut costs for parents, and bring greater opportunity to every child here in Kentucky. We have the money to do this, Kentuckians have the desire to do this, and we owe it to our people and our future to get the job done."

Those joining the Lieutenant Governor and Adkins in Eastern Kentucky said:

"Preschool offers numerous benefits that extend beyond academic readiness," said Perry County Judge/Executive Scott Alexander. "It saves money for families, increases graduation rates, enhances social skills and bridges the gap between socioeconomic groups. I applaud Gov. Beshear for leading the fight for universal pre-K in the commonwealth."

"As mayor of Russell and a school bus driver with Russell Independent Schools, I can attest to the positive impact Pre-K for All would have in Eastern Kentucky," said Russell Mayor Samuel Simpson. "It will prepare more kids and families for success, giving our schools and our workforce a boost. We are all in for Pre-K for All."

"As a mother of two young children, I know firsthand the need for child care and universal pre-K," said Morehead Mayor Laura White-Brown. "I had two children during the time of COVID-19, and there was no greater emphasis on child care than at that time. The realization of the demand for child care for the workforce, along with affordable child care made a substantial impact not only in my community but across the region. I am the mother of a 7-year-old and 10-year-old. I have made it a priority to create a community that is welcoming and inclusive of a workforce that supports working parents while also focusing on affordable child care."

"Implementation of Pre-K for All will help us reinvigorate education in Kentucky and fuel job creation," said Larry Fergu-

son, president of Ashland Community and Technical College. "It also combats a major hurdle for many college students and workers regarding childcare accessibility. This is an opportunity we cannot miss."

"Providing preschool for all 4-year-olds in Kentucky is vital, as it significantly enhances kindergarten readiness leading to higher proficiency in reading and math, improved social emotional development, and reduced grade retention," said Carrie Ballinger, superintendent of Rockcastle County Schools. "Access to preschool ensures that all Kentucky 4-year-olds, regardless of their background, have the opportunity to thrive. Additionally, it would alleviate the cost of child care for families and support greater workforce participation, contributing to the state's economic growth."

"In Eastern Kentucky, SOAR believes everyone deserves the chance to discover purpose through meaningful work," said Colby Hall, executive director of Shaping Our Appalachian Region (SOAR). "Pre-K helps make that possible by preparing children for success and freeing parents to pursue opportunity."

When Gov. Beshear announced the Pre-K for All initiative on Wednesday, June 4, he noted that, according to KY Stats, more than half of Kentucky's children – 53.8% – are unprepared when they show up for their first day of kindergarten.

"Before they even step through the door, they are behind. This creates an achievement gap that is nearly impossible to close," Gov. Beshear said. "To increase kindergarten-readiness, we need to offer pre-K for every 4-year-old across the state of Kentucky."

The Governor said that in addition to increasing educational opportunities for the state's youngest learners, Pre-K for All will also help put money back in the pockets of parents and caregivers and grow the commonwealth's workforce.

"American families are struggling to pay the bills, and

one of the key drivers is a lack of childcare," Gov. Beshear said. "Pre-K for All can ease the financial burden facing our hard-working families and make paying the bills a little easier."

The Governor noted that according to the Cabinet for Health and Family Services, 79 of Kentucky's 120 counties – nearly two-thirds – don't have access to enough child care to serve every family who needs it, with the majority of those located in Eastern Kentucky.

A long-term study from Yale found that providing pre-K increased the earnings of parents and caregivers by nearly \$9,000 annually, a trend that held for at least six years. This amounts to \$54,000 for Kentucky families as their kids grow.

And what's good for kids and families is also good for Kentucky's business and economy. According to estimates from the U.S. Census Bureau, over time, Pre-K for All is projected to grow Kentucky's workforce by up to 70,000 people.

In addition, a study from Yale shows that every dollar invested in pre-K generates \$10 that cycles through the state economy.

Lt. Gov. Coleman stressed that Pre-K for All is a nonpartisan issue, noting that 18 states – including Alabama, Colorado, Florida, Georgia and West Virginia – offer pre-K access for all 4-year-olds.

As part of the initiative, Gov. Beshear issued an executive order creating the Team Kentucky Pre-K for All Advisory Committee, comprising 28 leaders from across the commonwealth.

The Pre-K for All initiative aims to build on Kentucky's historic economic winning streak.

Under the Beshear-Coleman administration, the state has broken its job-creation record, creating more than 60,000 good jobs. And while Kentucky has reached the highest point ever for the number of people employed, number of jobs filled and civilian labor force, the Governor and Lieutenant Governor believe there is still important work to do.

Georgetown College Dean's List 2025

Herald Report

Georgetown College is pleased to recognize 286 students who earned a place on the Dean's List for the Spring 2025 term. To qualify, a student must have completed the spring semester with at least 12 credit hours and a minimum 3.7 GPA.

"The Academic Dean's List recognizes those students who have excelled academically while balancing their other responsibilities," said Provost and Dean of the

College Jonathan Sands Wise. "It is not easy to earn recognition on the Dean's List at Georgetown, and these students and their families should be proud of their accomplishments."

The Spring Dean's List includes 219 students from Kentucky, 48 students from other states, and 19 students from outside the United States.

The list includes Caleb Joseph Poczatek of Lewis County.

Notice To Garrison Fire District Residents

The Garrison Fire Tax Board is requesting applications to fill a 4 year position on the board. Applicants must own property and reside inside the Garrison Fire District boundaries. All applicants will be placed on the ballot for a public election to be held on Saturday, July 5, 2025, at the Garrison fire station. Applicants must be 21 years of age or older to apply. To pick up an application, contact Marty Strong at 606-541-1554 or 606-757-4269. Applications must be received by Thursday, June 19, 2025.

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